

Attorney Docket No. 1081.1055D

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Yoshio KITAMURA

Application No.: Continuation of Serial No. 08/932,427 Group Art Unit: 2188

Filed: July 16, 2003 Examiner: Portka, G.

For: RAID APPARATUS AND ACCESS CONTROL METHOD THEREFOR WHICH
BALANCES THE USE OF THE DISK UNITS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure provisions of 37 CFR § 1.56, there is hereby provided certain information which the Examiner may consider material to the examination of the subject U.S. patent application. It is requested that the Examiner make this information of record if it is deemed material to the examination of the subject application.

1. Enclosures accompanying this Information Disclosure Statement are:

- 1a. Form PTO-1449.
- 1b. Copies of IDS citations.
- 1c. An English language copy of search report(s) from a counterpart foreign application or a PCT International Search Report.
- 1d. English language translation (complete or relevant portion(s)) attached to each non-English language publication.
- 1e. Explanations of Relevancy of References (ATTACHMENT 1(e), hereto) for providing a concise explanation of each non-English publication.
- 1f. List of Copending Applications (ATTACHMENT 1(f), hereto).
- 1g. List of Additional Submitted Documents (ATTACHMENT 1(g), hereto).

2. This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 CFR §1.97(b):

(Check either Item 2a or 2b or 2c or 2d)

- 2a. Within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a Continued Prosecution Application under § 1.53(d);
- 2b. Within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application.
- 2c. Before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits; or
- 2d. Before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under § 1.114.

3. This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 CFR § 1.97(c) after the period specified in paragraph 2 above but before the mailing date of any of a Final Office Action under § 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under § 1.311 or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, AND

(Check either Item 3a or 3b; Item 3b to be checked if any reference known for more than 3 months)

- 3a. The §1.97(e) Statement in Item 5 below is applicable; OR
3b. The \$180.00 fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is:
 enclosed.
 to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

4. This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 CFR §1.97(d) after the period specified in paragraph 3 above, but on or before payment of the Issue Fee, AND

- 4a. The § 1.97(e) Statement in Item 5 below is applicable; AND
4b. The \$180.00 fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is:
 enclosed.
 to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

5. Statement under § 1.97(e) (*applicable if Item 3a or Item 4a is checked*)

(Check either Item 5a or 5b)

- 5a. In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1), it is stated that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
5b. In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(2), it is stated that no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known by any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

6. This is a continuation/divisional/continuation-in-part application under 37 CFR § 1.53(b).

(Check appropriate Items 6a and/or 6b)

- 6a. Copies of the publications listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 which were previously cited in prior application Serial No. 08/932,427, filed on September 14, 1997, and which is relied on for an earlier effective filing date for the subject application under 35 U.S.C. § 120, have been omitted pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.98(d).
6b. Copies of the publications listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 which were not previously cited in prior application Serial No. ___, filed on ___, and which is relied on for an earlier effective filing date for the subject application under 35 U.S.C. § 120, are provided herewith.

7. This is a continuation/divisional application under 37 CFR § 1.53(d) or a Request for Continued Examination under 37 CFR 1.114.

(Check either Item 7a or 7b)

- 7a. The Issue Fee has not been paid.
- 7b. A Petition to Withdraw from issue under 37 CFR § 1.313(c) is filed concurrently herewith or has been granted. A continuation/divisional application under 37 CFR § 1.53(d) or a Request for Continued Examination under 37 CFR 1.114, after payment of the Issue Fee, is proper in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.53(d)(1)(ii) or 37 CFR 1.114(a), respectively.

8. This is a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement.

(Check either Item 8a or 8b)

- 8a. This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(f) supplements the Information Disclosure Statement filed on ___. A bona fide attempt was made to comply with 37 CFR § 1.98, but inadvertent omissions were made. These omissions have been corrected herein. Accordingly, additional time is requested so that this Supplemental IDS can be considered as if properly filed on ___.
- 8b. This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is timely filed within one (1) month of the Notice under 37 CFR § 1.97 and 1.98, mailed ___.

9. In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.98, a concise explanation of what is presently understood to be the relevance of each non-English language publication is:

(Check appropriate Items 9a, 9b, 9c and/or 9d)

- 9a. satisfied because all non-English language publications were cited on the enclosed "English language version of the search report or action which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office". (See MPEP § 609, Minimum Requirements for an Information Disclosure Statement, Part A(3): Concise Explanation of Relevance, 8th Ed.)
- 9b. set forth in the application.
- 9c. satisfied because an English language translation (complete or relevant portion(s)) is attached to each non-English language publication.
- 9d. enclosed as Attachment 1(e), hereto.

10. No admission is made that the information cited in this Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability nor a representation that a search has been made (other than search report(s) from a counterpart foreign application or a PCT International Search Report, if submitted herewith). 37 CFR §§ 1.97(g) and (h).

11. The Commissioner is authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any additional fee required under 37 CFR § 1.17 for this Information Disclosure Statement to Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Dated: July 16, 2003
1201 New York Avenue, N.W., Ste. 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501

By: 
Gene M. Garner II
Registration No. 34,172

FORM PTO-1449	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 1081.1055D	APPLICATION NO. Continuation of Serial No. 08/932,427
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>		FIRST NAMED INVENTOR Yoshio KITAMURA	
		FILING DATE July 16, 2003	GROUP ART UNIT 2188

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	BA	5,568,629	10/1996	GENTRY ET AL..			
	BA	5,542,064	7/1996	TANAKA ET AL.			
	BC	5,537,567	7/1996	GALBRAITH ET AL.			
	BD	5,408,634	4/1995	JOHO			
	BE	5,375,217	12/1994	JIBBE ET AL.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

AJ	The RAIDBook, A Source Book for RAID Technology, Edition 1-1, published by the RAID Advisory Board, St. Peter, MN, November 18, 1993
AK	Yuji Ogawa et al., "F6401A Magnetic Disk Array Unit", Fujitsu Science Technology Journal, 31, 1, pp. 18-28 (June 1995)
AL	Hitoshi Matsushima et al., "F1710A File Control Unit and F6493 Array Disk Subsystem", Fujitsu Science Technology Journal, 31, 1, pp. 29-35 (June 1995)

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

ATTACHMENT 1(f)

LIST OF COPENDING APPLICATIONS		ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	APPLICATION NO.
		1081.1055D	Continuation of Serial No. 08/932,427
		FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	
		Yoshio KITAMURA	
		FILING DATE	GROUP ART UNIT
		July 16, 2003	2188

The following, prior-filed, copending U.S. patent application(s) is/are listed in accordance with the duty of disclosure provisions of 37 CFR § 1.56, so that the Examiner may consider same should he deem any thereof to be material to examination of the subject application. Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(iii), a copy of the identified copending application(s) is provided.

It is requested that the Examiner acknowledge his consideration of application(s) below-listed by initialing same in the space provided adjacent each such application and that the Examiner sign and date this form at the bottom thereof to confirm such consideration having been given.

This submission in no way represents an admission that any of the information listed herein constitutes prior art with respect to the subject application and unless and until such prior art status is established, this submission is not a request that the information presented herein be printed on the face of any patent issuing from the subject application in which this information is being filed.

U.S. PATENT APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		U.S. SERIAL NO.	FILING DATE	NAME	ASSIGNEE
	1	08/932,427	09/17/97	Yoshio KITAMURA	FUJITSU LIMITED
	2				
	3				
	4				
	5				
	6				
	7				
	8				

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	

Sheet 1 of 2

FORM PTO-1449	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 1081.1055D	APPLICATION NO. Continuation of Serial No. 08/932,427
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>		FIRST NAMED INVENTOR Yoshio KITAMURA	
		FILING DATE July 16, 2003	GROUP ART UNIT 2188

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA	5,915,095	06/1999	MISKOWIEC			
	AB	5,859,965	01/1999	GITTINS ET AL.			
	AC	5,819,310	10/1998	VISHLITZKY ET AL.			
	AD	5,778,426	07/1998	DEKONING ET AL.			
	AE	5,809,516	09/1998	UKAI ET AL.			
	AE	5,708,668	01/1998	STYCZINSKI			
	AF	5,636,356	06/1997	KAKUTA ET AL.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	AG	0 485 110	5/13/92	EUROPE			
	AH	3-253933	11/13/91	JAPAN			
	AI	60-205641	10/17/85	JAPAN			

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

TRANSLATION
YES NO

AJ	Patent Abstract of Japan, Kitajima Hiroyuki, "METHOD AND DEVICE FOR CONTROLLING STORAGE DEVICE", Publication Date 5-11-91, Publication No. 03246713, Japanese Application No. 02042452, Feb. 26, 1980.		
AK	English Translation of Japanese Patent Office Action for Patent Application No. Heisei 9 nen 004427, issued May 30, 2002		

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	